

County of }
 Wilts, }
 February, 1775.

For the Information of the County, and that no Person may plead Ignorance for the several severe Penalties and Punishments, directed to be inflicted on the Persons guilty of any the Offences undermentioned, it is thought adviseable the following short Abstract of an Act of Parliament, made in the Sixth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, Intituled, An Act for the better Preservation of Timber Trees, and of Woods and Underwoods, and for the further Preservation of Roots, Shrubs, and Plants, should be made public, whereby it is enacted,

THAT from and after the 24th of June, 1766, every Person who shall wilfully cut, or break down, bark, burn, pluck up, lop, top, crop, or otherwise deface, damage, spoil, or destroy, or carry away, any Timber Tree or Trees, or Trees likely to become Timber, or any Part thereof, or the Lops or Tops thereof, and shall be convicted thereof on the Oath of one Witness, before one Justice, shall, for the first Offence, forfeit and pay such Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds, as such Justice shall seem meet, together with the Charges attending such Conviction, and upon Non-payment are to be committed for not more than Twelve nor less than Six Months: For the second Offence shall forfeit and pay such Sum not exceeding Thirty Pounds, with Charges, and upon Non-payment are to be committed for not more than Eighteen nor less than Twelve Months; and for the third Offence shall be deemed guilty of Felony, and are to be transported for seven Years. And it is by the same Act declared, That all Oak, Beech, Chesnut, Walnut, Ash, Elm, Cedar, Firr, Asp, Lime, Cycamore, and Birch Trees, shall be deemed and taken to be Timber Trees.

And all and every Person and Persons, who shall pluck up, or cut, or spoil, or destroy, or take, or carry away, any Root, Shrub, or Plant, out of the Fields, Nurseries, Gardens, or Garden-Grounds, or other cultivated Lands of any Person or Persons whomsoever, and convicted as aforesaid, shall, for the first Offence, forfeit and pay such Sum, not exceeding Forty Shillings, with the Charges as the Justice shall seem meet: For the second Offence, a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds; and for the third Offence to be transported for Seven Years.

And all and every Person and Persons, who shall go into the Woods, Underwoods, or Wood Grounds of any of his Majesty's Subjects, and shall there cut, lop, top, or spoil, split down, or damage, or otherwise destroy any Kind of Wood, or Underwood; Poles, Sticks of Wood, Green Stubs, or Young Trees, or carry or convey away the same, or shall have in his, her, or their Custody, any Kind of Wood, Underwood, Poles, Sticks of Wood, Green Stubs, or Young Trees, and shall not give a satisfactory Account how he, she, or they came by the same, and shall be thereof convicted, as aforesaid, shall, for the first Offence, forfeit and pay such Sum not exceeding Forty Shillings, with the Charges as the Justice shall seem meet: For the second Offence, a Sum not exceeding Five Pounds; and for the third Offence, shall be deemed and adjudged an incorrigible Rogue or Rogues, and shall be punished as such.

And where the respective Forfeitures shall not be paid down, (where not otherwise directed by the said Act) the Offender or Offenders for the first Offence, may be committed to the House of Correction for one Month to hard Labour, and to be once whipped there; and for the second Offence may be committed for Three Months to hard Labour, and to be whipped there once in every one of the said Months.

One Moiety of the Forfeitures to be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety to the Person or Persons aggrieved.